

APPENDIX (Amended Material)

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. Apparatus comprising:

a first supply source of sterile air;

a supply source of sterilant;

an atomizing system producing an atomized sterilant from the mixing of the sterile air from the first supply source of sterile air with the sterilant;

a second supply source of a hot sterile air for providing the hot sterile air to the atomized sterilant;

a probe [extending into an interior of a container] for applying the atomized sterilant into [the] an interior of [the] a container; a mechanism for extending and retracting the probe into the interior of the container; and

a third supply source of a hot sterile drying air for activating and drying the sterilant in the interior of the container.

11. A method comprising:

providing a first supply of sterile air;

providing a supply of sterilant;

producing an atomized sterilant by mixing the first supply of sterile air with the sterilant;

providing a second supply of hot sterile air to the atomized sterilant;

providing a probe [extending into an interior of a container] for applying the atomized sterilant into [the] an interior of [the] a container;

extending the probe into the interior of the container;

applying the atomized sterilant into the interior of the container; and

supplying a third supply of hot sterile drying air for activating and drying the sterilant in the interior of the container.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of [supplying] providing a probe further includes providing a spray nozzle for applying the sterilant.